



## THE

## KOREA REVIEW.

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# Retrospect of 1904.

It takes no prophetic eve to see that the year of grace 1904 will prove to have been one of the most momentous in the history of this country. This surmise is based on the following historical proposition. We need not go further back than the beginning of our era. About that time three kingdoms arose in the peninsula, Sil-la, Pak-je and Koguryu. The general characteristics of these three were that Sil-la, the farthest from China, was pro-Chinese, Pak-je, on the opposite side of the peninsula from Japan, was pro-Japanese, and Kogurvi in the north was neither pro-Japanese nor pro-Chinese. general attitude may be said to have brought about a sort of equilibrium. In the seventh century Sil-la obtained control of nearly the whole of Korea and began that marvelous absorption of Chinese ideas which has left such indelible impress upon her. But at the same time her intercourse with Japan began to be more close. China made no effort to enforce her commands here and this may be called the golden age of Korea. But like all golden ages it fell into corrupt ways and early in the tenth century it was overthrown by Wang-gön, who founded the Koryu dynasty. The five centuries during which this dynasty flourished were the palmy days of Buddhism. This cult had come from India by way of China, but the mysticism of it had appealed far less to the hard-headed Chinese than to the more idealistic Japanese, the result being that on this score there was

greater rapport between Korea and Japan than between Korea and China. This helped to preserve the equilibrium until the rise of the Mongols. They, of course, swept eveything before them and held Korea firmly in their grip for a century and more. But it was purely political. The Koreans learned nothing from the northern savages nor was any definite impression made upon Korean life or institutions by their temporary usurpations. Soon after the Mongols retreated from Peking to their native wilds in the middle of the thirteenth century the Korya dynasty, utterly corrupt, fell before the sword of Yi T'a-jo and the present dynasty arose.

The Mings of China held Korea with the gentle grasp of a parent rather than of a suzerain, and at the same time trade relations were resumed with Japan, which had been interrupted by the long series of Japanese freebooting expeditions. For two hundred years Korea was quite independent but at last the great struggle came when the Japanese Hidevoshi tried to make Korea a stepping stone to the conquest of China. After eight years of war this was put down, but the mutual attitude of Japan and China was henceforth that of jealousy over Korea. Early in the seventeenth century the Japanese trading post in Fusan grew to great proportions and brought Korea and Japan into profitable relations with each other. The victorious Manchus swept over Korea again in the middle of that century and made Korca politically their vassal, though their actual influence on Korea was no greater than that of the Mongols had been. When they retired Japan offered to take the field with Korea to break the bond which the Manchus had forged but Korea wisely declined the offer. From that time until 1876 Korea remained practically free, for China looked upon her hermit condition with complacency. The awakening of Japan put a new face upon everything. The independence of Korca was made the main plank in Japan's castern policy and China weakly accepted the fact and waived her claim to suzerainty until too late, for treaties with several western powers were an argument hard to get behind. China had been eaught napping.

She tried to regain the lost ground but in so doing brought upon herself the war of 1894. The equilibrium had been violently disturbed but it was resumed when Russia stepped in and faced Japan From that time until the opening of the present war Korea remained practically independent.

In summing it all up we may say (1) that China is permanently out of the reckoning. She will never claim nor obtain paramount influence in Korea. And (2) as for Russia and Japan there is much reason for believing that the unstable equilibrium of former times can never be resumed. Whichever side wins Korea will be very much under the wing of the winning party. Should Russia merely reoccupy the whole of Manchuria, Japan would make a final stand in Korea and as long as she was there Korea would be "in her sleeve." If Russia should drive Japan out, Korea would be Russian territory. There is some talk about other Powers having a say as to the disposition of Korea, but this may be set aside as mere sentiment. Great Britain is Japan's ally and she will not interfere in Japan's plans, nor could she well interfere if Japan suffered reverses and lost her control of Korea. France is Russia's ally and for like reasons she will not interfere in either case. There remains the United States and Germany, neither of which will lift a finger except to insure an open door for trade.

The proposition therefore upon which we base the statement that this is a most momentous year for Korea is that the equilibrium which has existed off and on for 2,000 years has been definitively broken and Korea will never again be able to pit one enemy against the other. She must find some other ground on which to base her independence. It stands to reason therefore that in her absolute lack of physical power her only resource is to comport herself in such a way that the Power which stands able to compel her shall find it more to its own advantage to leave her independent than to impair her independence. This could not be done if Russia were paramount, for the very idea of independence is repugnant to her feelings and her policy. The murder of Finland

shows this. The very existence of the spirit of freedom in Finland was a menace to Muscovite institutions. It would be the same anywhere. What would happen if Russia and the United States were contiguous countries. They would have to put a wide strip of neutral territory between them or build a wall a mile high—or there would be the dogs to pay! But supposing that things remain as they are, then Korea has a chance to preserve her independence only by proving to Japan that such independence will be of greater value to Japan herself than the absorption of Korea will be. We see no other way out of the dilemma.

In what way then can the independence of Korea be made of greater value to Japan than the annexation of the peninsula would be? This can be answered only by discovering what Japan wants of Korea. After such a decimating war as the one in progress we doubt whether there will be a large demand for room in which to expand the population of Japan. The war is not yet over and even if it results in Japanese success Japan will need all the men she can muster within her own borders to build again the broken fabric of her state. Besides, the territory of Manchuria and the Ussuri will give ample room for such expansion without absorbing Korea. No, what Japan wants of Korea is that she should be thoroughly loval to the pledge of mutual helpfulness that she has taken and that the resources of the country be opened up in an adequate manner. Now, if these things can be effeeted without throwing upon Japan the onus of the aetual administration of affairs in Korea we are convinced that Korea's autonomy would remain unimpaired; but if there is to be the constant fear lest Korea betray Japan to her enemies or if in a spirit of stubborn conservatism Korea refuses to effect much needed reforms, then we say it looks exceedingly doubtful. All sentimental considerations aside, we may depend upon it that in case of victory Japan will do with Korea what she pleases, and Korea has it in her power so to act that Japan will please to preserve the independence and autonomy of the country.

In making a retrospect of the past year we have to ask whether Korea has taken steps to insure this much desired object. If we are forced to answer in the negative the fault lies not solely with Korea herself. If Japan had promptly instituted needed reforms and given an impetus to a new movement for which the Koreans were entirely prepared and indeed eagerly awaiting, the present situation would have been much more cheering. In our opinion the effort to make individual profit out of Korea's helpless condition should have been sharply checked by Japan, and the prejudices of the people should have been soothed by a conciliatory and helpful attitude. This accomplished, Japan could have gone much further along the line of Korean internal development than she will now be able to do.

But as the year drew to a close the Japanese scemed to have put aside the more selfish considerations and begun with some sane suggestions as to a reorganization of the government which would do away with much unnecessary expense and would leave the government with funds in hand whereby to strengthen some of her weak points. Education has come to the fore and it looks as if steps were being taken to make a great advance along this line. It is to be hoped so. On the whole the year closes with much brighter prospects than were to be hoped for earlier in the year.

## The Educational Needs of Korea.

#### THIRD PAPER

We intimated in a former paper that there is a way out of the educational *impasse* which this people has reached. The solution is a double one and must be a combination of government and private effort. We have asked where the teachers are to come from to teach the common schools throughout the country. If we were to wait until enough teachers were carefully trained for these positions we should never have them. The work

must be a gradual and steady one. This does not mean that we must begin with a few schools and increase the number as fast as teachers are ready. There is a far better way. There are many young men of good parts who are capable of teaching the Chinese character together with Korean history and geography. Let us suppose that schools are started in every district with these three branches in the curriculum. The teachers are not as yet competent to teach arithemetic or general geography or any of the natural sciences, but one object will have been achieved, namely the getting of the boys Suppose now that these schools are into schools. operated eight months in the year and that during the remaining four months the teachers congregate at their provincial capitals and study under the direction of a first class man sent down from Seoul for the purpose. Enough men of the proper kind could be found who would spend the summer months in this way on a good salary. During those four months the teachers could learn more than enough to teach their schools the following school year. For each summer school that they attended they would receive a certificate. It is quite certain that after four or five years of such work a thoroughly good body of teachers could be worked up. Of course some would be weeded out but the average would probably be fairly satisfactory. Their study during the summer would be based on text books that were prepared at Seoul and these would be supplied to all the country schools.

It should not be understood that these teachers are to be Seoul men. Each district could supply the teacher for its school and in this way the dissatisfaction which always attends a change of residence in Korea would be avoided.

As for the financing of these schools, the government should authorize each prefect to deduct from the government revenue the amount necessary to run the school; or better still would be the plan to lower the government tax by this amount and levy the difference on the people as a direct local tax for the specific purpose of

education. This in itself would be beneficial in impressing the fact that the people are themselves directly responsible for local schools. In time it will be found that each district will need more than one school, in fact some will need a dozen, but at its inception this would be impossible because the vast number of teachers could not be handled in the summer schools to good advantage. But after say four years the best of the teachers could be scleeted to earry on summer schools for teachers in their districts, and so the system would spread to the smaller villages. The salaries of the teachers would vary according to the attainments they had made as vouched for in their credentials received each year from the summer schools.

We venture to say that such a seheme as this could be earried out without difficulty and without the government feeling the burden of the expense. The whole thing could be done with a fraction of the money now wasted on the army. There are some 360 districts. Let us suppose the teacher's salary is \$20 to start with. This would call for \$86,400 a year. Fuel, superintendence etc. would double this. As the teacher would receive this salary twelve months in the year he would be able to pay his own expenses at the summer school. The whole thing could be done on something less than \$250,000 a year. This is less than one sixteenth the amount spent on the army! Supposing it cost even double the amount here specified, the government could well afford to do it.

So far as text books are concerned the eost to the government should be reduced to nothing, for each scholar could afford to pay at least the eost price of his books.

Such is a rough outline of a plan that appears to me to be not ideal but workable and as near the ideal as we can hope to get at the beginning. There may be some who will object to beginning with the Chinese character. No one is more anxious than I to see the Chinese character take its place where it belongs alongside the Egyptian hieroglyphics, but this cannot be done at a single bound. We should advocate only such a knowledge of

the ideographs as would enable a boy to read the daily papers and such other things as are printed in the mixed script. This will not do him much harm but meanwhile we will have schools. That is the main thing. The study of Chinese is better than nothing and country schools would mean this or nothing. We must not forget the intense prejudice of the people in favor of Chinese. If it were dropped from the curriculum not one boy in ten in the country would care to go to school. The point is to give him gradually something besides the Chinese and, as time goes by, increase the ratio of these new branches. There is no question that the practical studies will soon wean the student away from his present absorption in the Chinese and the way will be opened to drop the latter altogether. Meanwhile books on interesting topics should be printed in the pure native character and the student encouraged to read and discover the meaning even though it be difficult at first.

So much for the general system, but there still remains the important question of a good school of high grade for Seoul.

There are hundreds of half educated boys in this city who have graduated from various schools or have left before graduating. No provision has been made for higher education excepting in exclusive mission schools. How can a good school be established? We believe there is only one way. There must be an endowed institution under competent foreign direction. This institution must be in the hands of a board of trustees composed of men who know how and men who will be a guarantee of the continuity of the system. One thinks naturally of the Doshisha in Kyoto. A school founded on similar principles would be still surer of a consistent history than that one has had. We say the institution must be an endowed one, for the vicissitudes of government administration would not be a guarantee of unhindered operation. It should be put above and beyond the manipulation of politicians. Its professorships should not figure in the list of place for political preferment. It must be entirely outside the spoils system. It should be entirely

unsectarian, but the study of science along western lines would inevitably give it an impetus at least toward the ethics of Christianity. It would unfailingly raise the question of the relative merits of Christianity and the eastern cults. We do not hesitate to say that in our opinion the teaching force in such a school should be at least not hostile to Christianity. If I am taken to task in this as being narrow I have but to answer that there is no evidence anywhere that Buddhism or Shintoism or Mohommedanism is in vital sympathy with the higher levels of education or of intellectual independence. Bevrout and Roberts colleges form the high water mark of education in Turkey. The Imperial University of Tokyo offers no incentive toward Buddhism but on the other hand it enlightens men beyond the possibility of belief in the pessimisms of that cult. Buddhism answers no questions. The Doshisha stands as high, intrinsically, as Tokyo University, but what has Buddhism done for popular education in Japan? We affirm that Protestant Christianity is the only religion in the world that is not afraid of the very broadest and deepest and most untrammelled education. Agnosticism and atheism are not afraid of broad education but they lack the vital clement of sympathy. They give no warmth, no vitality, because they dare not go beyond the dead wall of physical matter or propose any satisfactory answer to the question as to the final reason for all this. We say this much only to give the reason why we believe such a school should be at least not hostile to Christianity.

As to the endowment for such a school we think it should come largely from Koreans. As to the ability of Koreans to do this there is no manner of question, but it is quite certain that they would not give money if the control of the institution and its funds were to be in the hands of Koreans. This is a harsh truth, but truth nevertheless. The kind of men who would recognize the value of such a school enough to give generously to it are the ones who realize how far short their countrymen have yet come of the ability to handle a trust sum permanently according to a fixed standard. The ups and

downs of political life would make it impossible to place this power in the hands of any body of Koreans. It should be in the hands of those who are entirely separate from possible politics, who have deep sympathy with the Koreans who are permanent residents of Korea. I know of no such body of men outside the missionary body. Diplomatic people are not permanent fixtures. Government employees are here to-day and to-morrow they are gone. All these may come and these may go but the missionary goes on forever—In other words the school should be a second Doshisha. Its standard should be high and its graduates should command the respect and the esteem of the government. They would step into positions of importance and exert a powerful influence in the destiny of the country.

We believe that most of the readers of this REVIEW wish to see the continuation of an autonomous Korean government and an independent people. If the Koreans would wake up to the necessities of the case and show signs of a determination to follow the line of development marked out by Japan we are confident that the government of the latter country would be better satisfied than by any other solution of the problem. Can this be done otherwise than by a campaign of education? If not, what does this people need most, if it be not a genuinely and thoroughly good sehool as an object lesson, a school of which the whole nation can be proud? If so, again, is there any possibility of their evolving such a school themselves? If not, upon whom does the duty devolve? It devolves upon those who can do it without there ever being the possible breath of suspicion that the institution was or could be partisan in its politics or that it could be manipulated for partisan purposes.

We have no suggestions to make as to what steps could be taken to put such a plan on foot; we simply state what ought to be done and what might be done. There are those who say that Christian missionaries are interested in education only as it directly affects the adherents of the church, but we contend that Christianity and general education are allies and not enemies and that

the spread of general education would surely work in the interests of Christianity. Not that missionary workers should be diverted from their specific work; this would hardly do, but they could take the lead in the matter of working up such a school and the actual workers in the institution could be secured from abroad, perhaps under the auspices of the Student Volunteer Movement.

# Spelling Reform.

To the Editor Korea Review.

DEAR SIR:-

Your October number contained several letters on spelling reform from the side of the conservatives with their battle ery of "go slow" well in evidence, and the old bogie about forcing a change on the Korean people by foreigners again held up to frighten the timid hearted. They have now also a new thing to say about the new spelling. It is the work of a "Pied piper of Hamlin" who has hypnotized a number of foolish followers by a weird pipe he blows, and is "leading" them to destruction. To this I would reply that it would be far more profitable to discuss the principles of orthography, and the effects of the adoption of a scientific phonertic system upon the language than to analyze the psychical phenomena manifested in the advocates of simplification. Dr. Gale did pipe a lot of useless characters out of the Korean alphabet, and has had as little thanks as that one did who got the rats out of the granaries. And to judge from the apparent balance of opinion in Seoul when the question was discussed, his winsome pipe has had its effect on human intellects as well. But it was no credit to the town councillors of Hamlin that they were not subject to the pipers pipe; it only proved that they did not know or appreciate melody as much as the rats or the children. That Dr. Gale has no followers from the part of the country where 하날 is 형, and 4 is 띄-the land of 베를당, and 마당당 etc., only shows that the citizens

there have not sufficient ear for music to follow Orpheus himself. Browning's parable was no doubt meant to show the thankless task that the reformer has set himself. So it has always been. "It must needs be that reforms come, but woe unto that man by whom they come."

One of the correspondents of your October number tries to be facetious at the expense of an "enthusiastic reformer" who was candid enough to admit the difficulty which his eye experienced in getting used to orthographic change. He leaves the inference to be drawn that if the change were temporarily embarrassing to a foreigner who had studied Korean spelling as he had his English, it would be equally embarrassing to the Korean people as a whole. But if he (or she) were as candid in his turn as the "reformer" he would admit that such is not the case. Not one Korean in ten thousand can 'spell correctly. When the committee of the Presbyterian Council on spelling reform was meeting it was maintained that there were Koreans who pay attention to spelling, and can spell correctly. Indeed one of the Koreans present was mentioned as being a very good speller according to the old system. A "reformer" present turned to the Korean scriptures and taking the first word that his eye met for a test asked him to write the word 착하리. He wrote it wrongly two different ways before he at last hit on the way it goes in the book. The fact of the matter is that as far as writing goes all Koreans write phonetically. The trouble is that there are so many different signs for one sound that the area of choice is too wide, so that for example while each is writing phonetically they will write for the same word one A, one A and one X. And Koreans are as elastic in their reading as in their writing; that is to say:—they are so used to reading various styles of spelling that it doesn't jar them to see a word spelt a little differently from the approved model. That no doubt was the reason for the apparently contradictory position of the "Enthusiastic Advocate."

Now that spelling reform is before us I would like to draw attention to still more radical changes that need to be made in writing the native script. This was brought to my mind on reading an article in the Christian News where a Latin quotation was introduced, Since Korean is written in vertical and Latin in horizontal lines, it was impossible to print the quotation in the original language and it was transliterated into Enmun so as to conform to the vertical direction of the lines, and in that form was with difficulty understood by me. This raised the question, what will we do when Korean literature, as it inevitably must, comes into contact with the outside world of thought, and when terms and names and translations and quotations in other dialects must be introduced into the Korean text. It can only be done with perfection by beginning from the present time to educate the Korean eye to horizontal writing from left to right. This should not be difficult. The individual characters of both Hanmun and Enmun are all writen from left to right so that the real current even of these eastern languages is in a right-horizontal direction. Why the original writers did not keep on writing to the right but persisted in going down vertically endangering their sleeves by beginning at the top of the next line before the bottom of the previous one is dry, I cannot imagine. When foreign "sized" paper and steel pens come into use with slowly drying ink, vertical writing beginning from the right must become very disagreeable, or necessitate the use of the blotter for every line.

Then again will modern conditions permit the Enmun printer's type to go on in its present complicated form, requiring so much expense for type-making and type-setting. Not being in close touch with Korean printing I do not know how many different pieces are needed to form a full set of Enmun type, but the number must be very large and it must make the compositor dizzy to have so many cases round him. When the type setting machine and the type-writer become, as they will, as imperatively necessary in Korea as in America, must we not have a smaller alphabet? And yet have we not a smaller alphabet in Enmun after all if we write it in its elementary form of of of a a a all or

cutting out the useless Q only 24. With such a simple alphabet at hand, the subsequent complication of matters by making them up into syllables is discreditable to the wonderful skill of the inventor of the script, shows that they did not anticipate the advent of type-setting and proves the power of the Chinese syllabie ideograph. Why should we not then even at this late date try to get the Enmun back to its old simplicity by using separately the 24 letters of the alphabet only. Then combining this recurrence to first principle with dextro-horizontal writing we would have something like the following:—

대 하느 フ우ィロ우느 从으기가 어려오나 자리 フ오스치며느 자미가마느게스쏘.

This looks a little strange to the eye, resembling Greek type at first glanee but a few days use would enable one to read as readily as in the present syllabic form.

I expect that the "go-slow" party will be horrified at the iconoclastic suggestion herein embodied, or laugh ingly regard it as the *Reductio ad absurdum* of spelling reform gone mad. Nevertheless I would submit these considerations to them and to all who care for Korea's preparation for a future close relationship with the horizontal writing nations, and the welding together of the literatures of the East and West. Yours etc.,

ARGOS.

## A Case of Who's Who,

The young man Kim was the son of a wealthy country gentleman who was locally notorious for his adherence to the theory that if you look after the pennies the pounds will look after themselves. His granaries were always full and the constant accumulation threatened to drive him to the expense of new store houses, but the bottom bags of rice rotted away or were consumed by rats, so that things had not as yet reached that pass. The old gentleman winced when the time came for put-

ting down the money for his sons' wedding, but he did it at last and the happy event came off with sufficient eclat.

After the festivities were over the bride and groom retired to their own apartments which had been specially fitted up for them. But before closing up for the night the bridegroom made his way to the kitchen to get a drink of water. On returning to the nuptial apartment he was greatly surprised, not to say dumbfounded, to see another man putting his foot over the thres hold of the private apartments. He leaped forward and seized the intruder by the shoulder and whirled him around. The latter turned and by the light of the moon the young man saw that the face was the exact counterpart of his own, feature for feature, as if he were looking into a glass. the resemblance was complete down to the minutest particular.

"What do you mean by trying to enter my private room in this manner?" he exclaimed angrily. The man shook the hand off his shoulder and replied:

"What are you doing here? you mean. I am the son of the master of this house, and have only today been married, and now you try to prevent my entering my own room." The real Kim was furious. This pretender was actually claiming the position of bridegroom. They began a violent dispute, in the midst of which the bride herself appeared upon the scene and made matters worse as being wholly unable to determine which man was indeed her husband.

Finally the real Kim proposed that they lay the matter before his father. There surely must be some way to find out the truth. To this the other readily consented. They had some difficulty in arousing the old man from his beauty sleep but at last they made him aware that something serious was on the tapis and he came forth grumbling. The real son stated the case, while the old gentleman looked from one face to the other in utter bewilderment.

"Now if this other fellow is your son," said the genuine article, "he will be able to answer certain questions about

our house, our family history and our domestic arrangements, which no one but an intimate of the family circle could know."

"Surely," said the parvenu "put your questions and do it in a hurry too, for I want to get back to bed."

"Well then, give the names of our family genealogy back for twelve hundred years." This would surely prove a "sticker," but no, the counterfeit bridegroom rattled off the long list as glibly as you please. The other listened open mouthed.

"But tell me in what the family wealth consists and the sources of its revenue item for item." This was also done without hesitation and the figures poured forth correct to the fraction of a copper cash. The genuine son swallowed hard and made one more attempt.

"Tell me the word's of the conversation that passed between my father and myself yesterday when none else was about. The interloper took up the tale and repeated the conversation word for word, and when he was done he turned to the old gentleman and said.

"Father, how long has this thing got to be kept up? You see I am the the real son and this fellow, though he looks much like me, is a rascal." What could the old gentleman do but agree that this was so and order his own son off the place under threat of severe legal penalties?

Was there ever such an unkind fate? He went forth penniless upon the road. He felt of himself and pulled his ears till they tingled, to make sure he was not dreaming. There was no doubt about it, but that some baneful influence was at work there could be no question. And so he wandered on until morning broke and he cast himself upon a bank beside the road a prey to the most miserable feelings. As he sadly mused over the unkindness of fortune a Buddhist monk came shuffling by. He started as he saw the young man and looked at his face long and curiously. A sort of dark intelligence slowly gathered in his eye and he said;

"Young man, you are in trouble and I can help you go to the Diamond mountains and study at the great

monastery. Ingratiate yourself with the monks and in some way induce them to lend you the golden cat which sits before the great Buddha. Take it to your home and thus you will recover all that you have lost." With this he shuffled on without waiting for any answer at all.

The more the young man thought it over the more clearly he saw that there was no better plan open to him, though of what use a golden cat would be to him was a black mystery. In time hereached the monastery and such was his brightness and capacity to learn that he won his way to all hearts. For three years he remained there and by that time he had secured a position in the esteem of the monks that made almost any request sure of their consent. When he deemed the time ripe for action he hinted that he must be off, but they entreated him to stay. He was firm however and when they saw he was determined to go they insisted upon making him a present to make him remember them. They asked him what he would like but he said:

"I will not accept any gift from you, but if you could loan me the golden cat that sits before the great Buddha I will promise to bring it back in a few weeks."

They all looked grave, for this was a very serious thing to do, but they said they would plead with the great Buddha for him.

Now the Great Buddha was a living personage, a sacred being who had attained a place but one remove from the coveted nirvana. They appointed a committee to wait upon that awesome personage and happily they succeeded in bringing away the golden cat. The young man was overjoyed and thanked them profusely. He slipped the priceless trophy in his sleeve and turned his feet toward home. He tramped the weary miles with growing impatience and excitement. At last he would be even with his enemy.

He climbed the last hill and looked down upon the ancestral estates which had been in the family for over a thousand years. They would be his again, thanks to the contents of his sleeve; but how? As he neared the house it seemed to have deterirorated greatly in the in-

terval of his absence. It had a dilapidated appearance as if it had been poorly tended and the lively throng of servants were conspicuously lacking. But the noise of drums and tomtoms and pipes came from the interior and showed him that there was still life there. He entered the court and asked what all the noise was about. A sad eyed servitor explained that the son of the master had long been ill and that the *mudangs* were trying to exorcise the evil spirits of disease. He found his father sitting in a dejected attitude and evidently aging fast. He introduced himself as a distant relative and entered into conversation with the old gentleman.

"The trouble is that my son refuses to see a doctor or take any medicine but makes me pay out all my money for these miserable mountebanks and sorceresses who do no good at all but eat up my wealth. I shall be beggered soon."

"Let me see your son" said the young man "I am something of a physician myself and might be able to prescribe. As a member of the family, though distant, I am much interested in this son of yours." The old man was pleased and went to ask the sick man if he would see the new-comer but the patient passionately refused and adjured his father not to let the man come near him. This message the old man sadly delivered.

"But when a man is ill he ought not to be consulted. Let me only see his face and I will tell you what must be done to cure him." As a last resort the father consented and told the supposed physician to go to the sick room unannounced. The young man approached the door, opened it slightly and thrust in his hand and and sleeve. The Golden Cat gave a leap and landed in the room. The young man drew the door shut and fastened it. Inside there was a terrrible uproar. There were squealings and growlings and scratchings and spittings. The furniture seemed to be undergoing complete destruction but at last all was still again.

The young man again opened the door a crack and thrust in his hand and instantly the cat leaped into his sleeve and turned to gold again. Without looking into the room the young man hurried to his father and told him to enter the sick chamber. The door was opened and a curious sight met their eyes. The room was strewn with broken fragments of furniture and in the midst of them lay the body of an enormous rat but the sick man was gone. The son threw himself at his fathers feet "Don't you know me, Father? I am your real son. This horrible vermin with his impish power assumed my shape and deceived you. As a constant infester of the house he had learned its secrets and so was able to answer the questions. The Golden Cat has done the work" and he drew it forth from his sleeve and showed it to the wondering old man.

Of course there was nothing to do but strangle the bride, and after this was done the house resumed its old time respectability.

# Correspondence.

Ham Hung, November 28th, 1904.

EDITOR OF KOREA REVIEW.

DEAR SIR:-

Affairs in the whole region South of Ham Hung are very quiet. Nothing is heard now of the Chin-po Society who are probably sorry now that their hair is short in the cold weather. Since my last visit to Ham Hung the roads and the bridges have been fixed in the same way as between Seoul and Wonsan i. e. wide with level crossing and an easy grade.

The only thing new in Wonsan is the new railroad terminus business. The engineers have marked out a large tract including the whole water front of the Korean town, half of the Korean village and a large part of the valley up as far as Dr. Hardie's house. They have included a field of Mr. Fenwick's and part of Dr. Hardie's and have issued notice that none of the land in the dis-

tricts so staked off can be bought, sold, or improved without permission of the military authorities.

Here in Ham Hung the city is still deserted, many of the people having fled recently as a result of a new scare. The necromancers prophesied on account of a study of the character in that on the 10th month the Russians would come and fight a big battle here. The town is like a plague city, hardly a person to be met on the streets. The Russians while not residing in force in Hong Won send a large patrol daily from Puk Chung direction to visit that city and have lately marked out a lot of houses that they intend to commandeer for residence of soldiers. They are also said to be extending their telegraph to Hong Won. Junks with bread and supplies from Vladivostok now come as far south as Sin Ch'ang. The Christians here are all feeling secure since Mr. M—is here now, living in his new house.

A messenger recently from Song Chin said that the Russians finding their tents too cold, have folded them "like the Arabs" but not "silently stolen away." They have turned in on the warm Korean floors, and as the Korean settlement in Song Chin is so small it makes close quarters. One Korean teacher has ten in his little house. The authorites seized the Mission Church over a month ago and made it a residence for their Red Cross people probably because of the Red Cross Church flag which was flown over it by the Christians. They also ordered the Korean who is watching Mr. R-'s house to put his things away in one room as they were going to occupy that house. As the messenger left the next day he did not know whether they had entered it or not. I heard just before leaving Wonsan that 500 Russian foot soldiers had arrived in Song Chin but whether true or not I cannot sav.

Last year's good crops have made food plenty and prices cheap but for some reason the exchange for cash has been very high in N. E. Korea, a yen bringing only about 460 cash to 500 cash for the past few months making living very costly for people whose salary is in Ven

### Editorial Comment.

In our last issue we said that it would be impossible to carry on this magazine on the lines already laid down, but our subscribers were invited to suggest ways and means by which it could be continued. We intimated at the time that the only difficulty in the way was the paucity of contributors. Since that issue went forth we have been in receipt of numerous protests against the discontinuance of the Review and of offers of aid in the matter of contributions. S. A. Beck, the Manager of the Methodist Publishing House, has agreed to assume the business management of the Review, and thus relieve the editor of a great deal of office work in connection with it.

Under these circumstances and with the apparent demand that exists for this or some similar periodical we hardly feel justified in withdrawing from the field. We therefore solicit the continued interest and patronage of the general public.

The general policy of the Review will be the same as it has been, its main object being the discussion of any and every matter pertaining to the history, the language, the social condition, the religions, the folk-lore or the politics of the Korean people. The business management will have control of the News Calendar, which will be enlarged and made more efficient than has heretofore been possible with the forces at our command. We aim to make a greater specialty of the physical and industrial aspects of Korea, and shall try to publish interesting and valuable itineraries of main lines of travel not covered by the railways that are under construction or are in contemplation.

As we have said before, it is necessary to consult many tastes in a paper of this kind, and few if any of our readers will be equally interested in all the lines of investigation that will be touched upon, but our readers may rest assured that we shall deal strictly with Korean topics and no space will be given up to outside matters.

Our main purpose is to make the magazine a benefit to Korea and the Koreans by giving as correct an impression as possible of the facts in regard to this people. Adulation would be as harmful as wholesale condemnation and we should steer a middle course. We will gladly consider any comments which our subscribers shall send in, the only requisite being that, whether palatable or otherwise, such comment shall be sympathetic.

We claim no ability to hold a neutral position as between the Japanese and Russians, as between liberalism and conservatism, as between Christianity and Confucianism, as between progress and retrogression, but on any and all of these points we hope to be able to give, (as we ask our contributors to give) a reason for the faith that is in us. There is a broad way and a narrow way to look at all great public questions; there are those who condemn the Crusades as a horrible blunder in that they failed to accomplish their ostensible and avowed purpose, forgetting that in reality they formed one of the longest steps in the evolution of modern civilization. So it is today; there is no cause that is propagated with infallible wisdom and without the alloy of mistake; but let us not judge great causes in the light of Shakespearc's aphorism

Their virtues else be they as pure as grace As infinite as man may undergo Shall in the general censure take corruption From that particular fault.

But if we are unable to forgive the error and condonc the fault let us at least make Burns our commentator on Shakespeare's immortal lines and remember that

A man's a man for a' that.

But even though in the case of an individual a single fault may utterly disqualify him yet the same cannot be said of a nation. It is necessary to determine the resultant of the forces which are working in it. Some people condemn America on the score of yellow journalism or of local municipal corruption or some other cause. Some people condemn Great Britain on the score of the opium traffic, Russia on the score of popular repression, Japan on the score of her failure to hold in check

certain lawless characteristics of the lower stratum of society. Is it fair to estimate a whole people thus or to condemn a national policy because of certain excrescences which are not essential to it but rather hinder it? We might as well say that all ships should be anchored permanently because barnacles grow on them. dAn be it noted that barnacles grow on the ocean greyhound as readily as on the trainp steamer.

The whole question lies in the willingness of any nation or power to reeognize its weak points and to make an effort to correct them. It is quite plain that the fate of Korea is closely linked with that of Japan. This is a fact that must be faced. It will be faced willingly by those who believe that Japan has it in her to learn how to handle an alien people, as great Britain does, in such a way as to be to the mutual advantage of both. Others will have to face it the best they can. The fact remains. For those, then, who sympathize with Koreans and desire to be of service to them what is the most reasonable line of conduct? Surely not to stand and merely exclaim against any and every encroachment upon what we deem to be Korea's rights, unless there is to be some practical result of such exclamation. There are very few of us that would deny that Japan has an opportunity to do Korea a great service and at the same time to do herself a great service. The reasonable course then is for each individual to use his influence so far as he may to make both Japanese and Koreans see that the success of both depends upon the building up of a genuine friendship between them. On the one hand the Japanese must overcome the tendency to look down upon the Korean as unworthy of consideration, and on the other hand the Korean must be encouraged to put away his inborn prejudice against the Japanese. We have nothing to say about the ease or the difficulty with which these results may be accomplished. It may be hard, it may be impossible, but would it be more reasonable to stir up strife between the two which could result only in the complete submergence of the Koreans?

In our efforts to be of service to the Koreans, there-

forc, we should strive to give the Koreans and the Japanese a higher estimate of each other. But this seems to be an impossible task. The Japanese consider the Koreans far below themselves in general culture, while the Koreans believe that with the exception of a few of the upper classes of Japanese the balance of civilization is with Korea. It is this social deadlock which must be broken before there can be any hope of bettering the situation. It is our business then to inquire how this can be accomplished, if at all. We do not hesitate to say that there is but one way to do it and that is by a process of education. It will be slow and tedious and before it is accomplished other events may have intervened which will overthrow all plans and hopes for the future. But this does not free us from the obligation of doing what we can to bring about the needed change in sentiment. General education will work in two ways to accomplish this object. It will raise the Korean in the estimation of the Japanese and it will bring the Korean to a point where he can appreciate what Japan has accomplished in the way of general advancement. In this way these two peoples will build up a genuine respect for each other, a respect that is now conspicuously lacking. There are two things that command respect in Japan, physical power and intellectual power. The soldier and the literatus are the ideals of the Japanese as they always have been and they respect these two things in others. Can we doubt that it was the combination of university education and militarism that attracted Japan so strongly toward Germany? Korea can never command respect on the score of physical power, and it is for this reason that we say that general education and a manifest determination to take advantage of modern learning is the only thing that will make the Japanese respect the Koreans

Would we be wrong in saying that the secret of successful colonization or the successful handling of alien peoples depends upon the ability of the teacher to respect the pupil? Much has been said on the opposite side of the question but this side needs emphasizing. If England

has had any success in handling India it is because those in whose hands the government of that peninsula lies recognize that beneath all the moral and intellectual incubi which the long centuries have imposed, beneath the bigotry of caste, beneath the cowardice evolved by millenniums of indirection and oppression—that beneath all these things there lies a genuine man, capable of becoming in time and under proper tutelage an honor to his race. He who charges the Anglo-Saxon with lack of imagination will have to reckon with this unique power to see in the unhewn marble a possible work of consummate art. This recognition on the part of the English of intrinsic manhood in the Indian has done more than any other one thing to engender self-respect and personal ambition in that people; and it will be the same the world over. Unless the Japanese find something to respect in the Korean the latter is doomed. Now there is something to respect in the Korean just as there was something to respect in the Indian, and Japan has an opportunity of showing the fundamental quality of her civilization, as England showed her's, by recognizing beneath all the superimposed prejudices and follies of the Korean the genuine man, capable of indefinite improvement.

We print in this number a forceful article by "Argos" on the reform spelling. We are sorry to say that we could hardly do justice to his sample of what the new style would be. Our font of type is not quite capable of effecting it but the reader will see that the idea is to separate consonants and vowels as we do in English so as to reduce the font of type to less than we have in an English font. His suggestion is a startling one and one that is sure to bring out some discussion.

We must take exception to the implication that Dr. Gale, the proposer of a reform spelling, has been shabbily treated or that people do not appreciate the work he has put on it. Such a momentous theme is surely worthy of full discussion and we are sure that "Argos" himself would not say that failure to agree with Dr.

Gale and adopt the new system carries with it any lack of appreciation of the good which he certainly intended to do. This discussion is carried on in the best of humor and the personal element has been conspicuously lacking. We want to know whether a change would be a good thing for the Koreans. The lack of unanimity grows out of no narrow considerations whatever but out of reasons which appear to each side to be fundamental. The Review stands ready to place before its readers any and every argument bearing on either side of the question, for it is one that vitally affects the whole future of Korean literature. The advocates of the reform say we have no standard of spelling. If so the sooner a standard is made the better. The question remains whether such a standard can be made to order or whether it has to grow up out of common usage. It will not do to say that with the pure phonetic system words will spell themselves, for they will not. The differences in pronunciation throughout the country makes this impossible. We have nothing to say at this point either for or against the new system, but whether the change is made or not there will be need of a fixed standard of some kind in printed form.

The opening of the Seoul-Fusan Raiload induces a reminiscent frame of mind. The older residents of Seoul remember well the "good" old days when we had to plow our way through mud and water over the bridle-path to Chemulpo. Then came the river steamers which made it a rule rather than the exception to rest for five or six hours on some sand bank each trip. Then all this was brushed away and the winter of our discontent was made glorious summer by the completion of the Seoul-Chemulpo Railway. And to think that we shall never have to pick our way again around that tide-swept, foginfested southwestern point of Korea! It seems almost too good to be true.

The first time we came to Korea, away back in the eighties, old Capt. Hussey was master of the Tsuruga and the way he would crawl up to an island in the fog

and nose it with the prow of his ship until he could see which island it might be was a caution to land-lubbers, especially to those who did not know what he was up to. Which one of us does not know the delights of anchoring in the fog for twenty-four hours, more or less, when we were almost in sight of home? If this railway had been completed a few years sooner we might still have among us Mr. Appenzeller, one of the pioneers of Korea, and others who have gone down on ill-fated steamers on the Korean coast.

This railway will give access to many interior points that are of great interest to the historian and archaeoogist and affords excellent opportunities to shake off the dust of Scoul and get a glimpse of rural life. The tone of the globe trotter will change and we shall hear no more about there being no trees in Korea and other Munchausen-like descriptions. This railway ought to bring a solution of the much mooted question as to a summer resort for foreigners in Seoul. There must be plenty of delightful spots made accessible by this railway and we hope the time is not far away when the summer will see a large mumber of foreigners gathered about some congenial center instead of being scattered to the four winds to practical hermitage. The summers could be made delightful as they are in Japan by all sorts of conferences, summer schools and other divertisements if only a place were selected where a goodly number could congregate and find suitable accommodation.

#### News Calendar.

There were one or two minor errors in the account we gave of the attack by Japanese upon Mr. Engel of Fusan. His Korean helper did not call out to the Japanese that the foreigner would aid him. Mr. Engel was tied to a post as we stated, but he did not lose consciousness. The Japanese ran away when they saw signs of approaching collapse.

The prefect of Whe-in had a rather unpleasant experience this month when his town was raided by robbers who surrounded his residence and forced him to hand over all the Government money he had on hand and also called on all the well-to-do people for money, clothes and other good things. As soon as he could, the prefect escaped and made his way to Seoul.

In spite of its former condemnation of the various societies that are being formed, the Government seems to have changed its mind and about the middle of December called up leading members of the Il-chin Society and congratulated them upon their organization, and promised not to interfere with them.

A great meeting of the Il-chin Society was held outside the South gate of Su-wun on the 12th inst., at which some 10,000 people were present. Of these three thousand had their haircut. The president made a clear statement of the aims of the society. Suddenly an aged man on the edge of the crowd begun applauding vigorously and declared that this was just what was needed to awaken the people and lead the nation to better things.

On December 22 the British Legation guard gave a very successful entertainment at the guard house. The songs, jokes, costumes and dialogues were well gotten up and speak well for the musical and histrionic ability of the men of the guard. The audience was highly entertained and heartily agreed that if this was a sample of what the men can do we must have more of it before the season is through.

The Christmas season found the children as enthusiastic as usual. The weather turned cold and crisp just a few days before the holiday came and gave us real Christmas weather. On the afternoon of the 27th a large number of the Seoul children gathered at the Seoul Union and had a very jolly time while the "grown ups" looked on and applauded. The children sang some pretty songs which reflected a great deal of credit on their instructress.

The absence of snow together with the snapping cold of the past two weeks has made some excellent skat.

ing and several of the Seoul people have taken advantage of it to do some twirling on the ice. There ought to be a revival of this most excellent and healthful sport among the foreigners of Seoul.

It is said that Japanese gendarmes have instructed the Police Bureau to let Japanese soldiers and post-men go in and out the north east gate at any hour of the night but not to open it in the morning for general use until receiving instruction from the Japanese.

According to the native press the Italian Minister renewed his attempt to obtain through the Foreign Office a gold-mining concession for his nationals stating that he had been instructed by his government to find out why, when many other foreign companies are given concessions, the Italians should be refused.

The British authorities have also been pressing for a second concession to be situated in Suan district in Whang-ha province but so far without success.

The German representative has announced to the government that the gold mining concession in Kimsung is a failure and requests that another be given instead.

On the afternoon of the 29th, inst. a serious affray took place between members of the Il-chin Society and the Korean soldiers. It seems that having been forbidden the use of the public streets for meeting, the Society secured the use of a Chinese building in the rear of the Annex of the Palace Hotel. There they met but on the day named some Pyengyang soldiers armed with brickbats raided the place and a fight took place in which some twelve of the Il-chin society members were or less severely injured. The Japanese gendarmes hurried to the place and attacked the Korean soldiers, one of the latter being killed on the spot. After the quarrel had been stopped the Japanese gendarmes went to the barracks and arrested five Korean officers who should have held the Pyengyang soldiers in check. The street in the vicinity afforded an animated sight all during the afternoon, being densely crowded with Koreans among whom Japanese mounted guards were stationed at frequent intervals. Two of the Koreans were so severely hurt that there are fears they will not survive. This stirred up a good deal of feeling among the Koreans both in favor of the society and against it.

The Belgian authorities have also repeated their request for a gold mining concession, citing the concessions made to the subjects of other powers. The unanimity with which foreigners are attempting to secure mining concessions here should settle for all time the question whether there is "pay dirt" in Korea.

A Korean hunter recently shot a huge tiger in the town of Pu-p'yung only eighteen miles from Seoul. He sold the skin to a Japanese in Chemulpo but the magistrate of Pup'yung was highly incensed at this, since according to immemorial custom all tigers must be handed over to the local magistrate, and it should be added that in such case the hunter gets little or nothing for the risk he has run and the labor expended. The man was seized and beaten but the people out of pity subscribed enough money to buy him off. It would be a pleasure to see such a magistrate forced to face a live tiger with an old Korean matchlock and get a taste of it himself. He then might see things in a different light.

The Il-chin gentry met a warm reception the other day in Kong-ju when several hundred residents of the town came at them with clubs. The doughty defenders of their country's honor turned and fled precipitately, throwing down their guns and all other impedimenta. They reached the Keum River and dashed in, some to be drowned and others to effect a very wet escape. They lost their baggage, their clothes, their money and what little reputation they may have had about them.

The Japanese have asked that in the districts which border upon the Seoul-Fusan Railway and along the road to Ham-gyung province, magistrates be placed who understand the Japanese language. The suggestion is an excellent one and one that the government would do well to follow.

In many districts there has been a recrudescence of the old time Righteous Army who have made it their business to combat the II-chin Society. The latter say that the Righteous Army has been stirred up by the corrupt officials in Seoul and urge that the adherents of the II-chin Society all flock to Seoul to press their claims.

Ten o'clock on the morning of Dec. 29th a distinguished company was gathered in the Cathedral in Seoul to witness the wedding ceremony of Mr. Adhemar Delcoigne and Miss Anna Irene Eckert. The ceremony was an imposing one and it was enhanced by appropriate music by the Imperial Band under the directorship of the bride's father. After the completion of the ceremony the company adjourned to an adjoining apartment where the newly wedded pair were heartily congratulated and a score or more of witnesses signed the register. At eleven o'clock a reception was held at the residence of Miss Sontag where congratulations were renewed and healths were drunk. An adequate description of the simple but elegant dress of the bride lies just beyond the tip of our pen and so we must forego this important part of a full description of the occasion. The REVIEW joins with all other friends in wishing long life and happiness to Mr. and Mrs. Delcoigne.

On the third of December a new society was organized under the name of the Chin Myung Society or "Progress and Enlightenment." The moving spirits in the new organization are farmer members of the Peddlar's Guild of malodorous memory. They have not followed recent precedents in the matter of hair cutting, but the lion has lain down with the lamb, for the general aims of these exponents of sweetness and light are the same as those of the Chin-bo, Il-chin and Kuk-min societies. But in addition to the advanced principles of the other societies it advocates a radical improvement in commercial matters. How such improvement is to be effected does not yet appear.

It seems that the Japanese authorities are asking the Korean Government to turn over to them the right to cut timber on the Yalu, which the Russians formerly enjoyed, but so far as we can hear no compensation has been promised.

Koreans say that a patriotic native named Kyöng Kwang-guk was so disgusted with the condition of affairs that he retired to a lonely mountain retreat but when he heard of the organization of the *Kuk-min* or National People's Society he came forth and became its president.

A Korean, who was listening to the appeal for the new Severance Memorial Hospital which Mr. T. H. Yun made at the Seoul Y. M. C. A. rooms, arose and stated that though he was not a member of the Y. M. C. A. and was only just in from the country, he could not think of allowing people in other lands to send such large sums of money here to help Koreans without doing something himself. He thereupon subscribed one hundred dollars toward the fund.

The Governor of North Ham-gyung Province reported lately that the prefect of Pu-ryung while on his way from Seoul to his post had to pass through Kyöng-sung. The Russian soldiers stopped him there and held him a prisoner in his own inn and would listen to no remonstrances. They allowed him, however, to return to Seoul. The prefect of Tan-ch'ūn was also stopped by the Russians and so he returned to his own home.

We regret to have to announce the death of the infant son of Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Clark. It occurred very suddenly after only two days of scarlet fever. The funeral took place on the 23rd inst.

### KOREAN HISTORY.

# Chapter XXVII.

The Battle of Chemulpo..., Russian survivors on neutral boats...

Blowing up of the Koryetz... sinking of the Variak.... Russians leave Korea ...hospital in Chemulpo....skirmish at Pyeng Yang .... Korean Japanese Protocol ...end of Peddlar's Guild..., Marquis Ito Yi Yong Ik retires.... Japanese conservative policy in Korea ... skirmish at Chöng-ju....suffering of Koreans in north .... apathy of Korean Government.... burning of palace in Seoul .... Korean currency.

It was a cloudless but hazy day and from the anchorage the Japanese fleet was all but invisible, for it lay at least eight miles out in the entrance of the harbor and partly concealed by Round Island which splits the offing into two channels. The two boats made straight for the more easterly of the channels, their course being a very little west of south. When they had proceeded about half the distance from the anchorage to the enemy's fleet the latter threw a shot across the bows of each of the Russian boats as a command to stop and surrender, but the Russians took no notice of it. The only chance the Russians had to inflict any damage was to reduce the firing range as much as possible for the Variak's guns were only six inches and four-tenths in caliber and at long range they would have been useless. This was at five minutes before noon. The Japanese fleet was not deployed in a line facing the approaching boats and it was apparent that they did not intend to bring their whole force to bear upon the Russians simultaneously. We are informed that only two of the Japanese vessels, the Asama and the Chiyoda, did the work. It was not long after the warning shots had been fired that the Japanese let loose and the roar that went up from those terrible machines of destruction tore the quiet of the windless bay to tatters and made the houses

of the town tremble where they stood. As the Variak advanced she swerved to the eastward and gave the Japanese her starboard broadside. All about her the sea was lashed into foam by striking shot and almost from the beginning of the fight her steering-gear was shot away so that she had to depend on her engines alone for steering. It became evident to her commander that the passage was impossible. He had pushed eastward until there was imminent danger of running aground. So he turned again toward the west and came around in a curve which brought the Variak much nearer to the Japanese. It was at this time that the deadly work was done upon her. Ten of her twelve gun-captains were shot away. A shell struck her fo'castle, passed between the arm and body of a gunner who had his hand upon his hip and, bursting, killed every other man on the fo'castle. Both bridges were destroyed by bursting shell and the Captain was seriously wounded in the left arm. The watchers on shore and on the shipping in the harbor saw flames bursting out from her quarter-deck and one witness plainly saw shells drop just beside her and burst beneath the water line. It was these shots that did the real damage for when, after three quarters of an hour of steady fighting, she turned her prow back toward the anchorage it was seen that she had a heavy list to port which could have been caused only by serious damage below the water-line. As the two boats came slowly back to port, the Variak so crippled by the destruction of one of her engines that she could make only ten knots an hour, the Japanese boats followed, pouring in a galling fire, until the Russians had almost reached the anchorage. Then the pursuers drew back and the battle was over. The Koryetz was intact. The Japanese had reserved all their fire for the larger vessel. The Variak was useless as a fighting machine, for her heavy list to port would probably have made it impossible to train the guns on the enemy, but all knew that the end had not yet come. The Russians had neither sunk nor surrendered. The threat of the Japanese to come in at four o'clock was still active. As soon as the Variak dropped anchor the British sent off four hospital boats to her with a surgeon and a nurse. Other vessels also sent offers of aid. But it was found that the Russians had

he last moment blow up their vessels with all on board. What else was there for them to do? They would not surrender and they could not leave their ships and go ashore decided to lie at anchor and fight to the bitter end and at only to be captured by the enemy. They would play out the tragedy to a finish and go down fighting. Upon learning of this determination the commanders of the various neutral vessels held another conference at which it was decided that the Russians had done all that was necessary to vindicate the honor of their flag and that, as it was a neutral port, the survivors should be invited to seek asylum on the neutral vessels. The invitation was accepted and the sixty-four wounded on board the Variak were at once transferred to the British cruiser Talbot and the French curiser Pascal. the commanders of the neutral vessels knew that the Variak and Koryetz were to be sunk by the Russians they paid no particular attention to the reiterated statement of the Japanese that they would enter the harbor at four and finish the work already begun. The passengers, crew and mails on board the steamship Sungari had already been transferred to the Pascal and an attempt had been made to scuttle her but she was filling very slowly indeed. It was about half-past three in the afternoon that the officers and crew of the Koryetz went over the side and on board the Pascal.

It was generally known throughout the town that the Koryetz would be blown up before four o'clock and everyone sought some point of vantage from which to witness the spectacle. Scores of people went out to the little island on which the light-house stands, for this was nearest to the doomed ship. It was thirty-seven minutes past three when the waiting multitude saw two blinding flashes of light one following the other in quick succession. A terrific report followed which dwarfed the roar of cannon to a whisper and shook every house in the town as if it had been struck by a solid rock. The window-fastenings of one house at least were torn off, so great was the concussion. An enormous cloud of smoke and debris shot toward the sky and at the same time enveloped the spot where the vessel had lain. moment later there began a veritable shower of splintered wood, torn and twisted railing, books, clothes, rope, utensils

and a hundred other belongings of the ship. The cloud of smoke expanded in the upper air and blotted out the sun like an eclipse. The startled gulls flew hither and thither as if dazed by this nuheard of phenomenon and men instinctively raised their hands to protect themselves from the falling debris, pieces of which were drifted by the upper currents of air for a distance of three miles landward where they fell by the hundreds in peoples' yards.

When the smoke was dissipated it was discovered that the Koryetz had sunk, only her funnel and some torn rigging appearing above the surface, if we except her forward steel deck which the force of the explosion had bent up from the prow so that the point of it, like the share of a huge plow, stood several feet out of water. The surface of the bay all about the spot was covered thickly with smoking debris and several of the ship's boats were floating about intact upon the water.

The Variak was left to sink where she lay. The fortyone dead on board were placed together in a cabin and went
down with her. She burned on till evening and then inclining more and more to port her funnels finally touched the
water and with a surging, choking groan as of some great
animal in pain she sank. As the water reached the fires a
eloud of steam went up which illuminated by the last flash of
the fire formed her signal of farewell.

It was arranged that the British and the French boats should carry the Russians to a neutral port and guarantee their parole until the end of the war.

This wholly unexpected annihilation of the Russian boats naturally caused consternation among the Russians of Chemulpo and Seoul. The Russian Consulate was surrounded by the Japanese troops and the Consul was held practically a prisoner. The Japanese Minister in Seoul suggested to the Russian Minister through the French Legation the advisability of his removing from Seoul with his nationals, and every facility was given him for doing this with expedition and with comfort. A few days later all the Russians were taken by special train to Chemulpo, and there, being joined by the Russian subjects in Chemulpo, they all went on board the Pascal. This vessel must have been crowded, for it is

said that when she sailed she had on board six hundred Russians, both civilians and military men.

Twenty-four of the most desperately wounded men on board the neutral ships were sent ashore and placed in the Provisional Red Cross Hospital. For this purpose the English Church Mission kindly put at the disposal of the Japanese their hospital at Chemulpo. Several of these wounded men were suffering from gangrene when they came off the Pascal but with the most sedulous care the Japanese physicians and nurses pulled them through.

After this battle at Chemulpo there was no more question about landing Korean troops further down the coast; in fact as soon as the ice was out of the Tadong River, Chinnampo became the point of disembarkation. But meanwhile the troops which had landed at Chemulpo were pushing north by land as rapidly as circumstances would permit and within a few weeks of the beginning of the war Pyeng-yang was held by a strong force of Japanese. At the same time work was pushed rapidly on the Seoul-Fusan Railway and also begun on the projected railway line between Seoul and Wiju.

As for the Russians they never seriously invaded Korean territory. Bands of Cossacks crossed the Yalu and scoured the country right and left but their only serious purpose was to keep in touch with the enemy and report as to their movements. On February 28 a small band of Cossacks approached the north gate of Pyeng Yang and after exchanging a few shots with the Japanese guard withdrew. This was the first point at which the two belligerents came in touch with each other.

It was on the night of February 23rd that Korea signed with Japan a protocol by the terms of which Korea practically allied herself with Japan and became, as it were, a silent partner in the war. Korea granted the Japanese the right to use Korea as a road to Manchuria and engaged to give them every possible facility for prosecuting the war. On the other hand Japan guaranteed the independence of Korea and the safety of the Imperial Family. It is needless to discuss the degree of spontaneity with which Korea did this. It was a case of necessity, but if rightly used it might have proved of immense benefit to Korea, as it surely did to Japan. It

formally did away with the empty husk of neutrality which had been proclaimed, and made every seaport of the peninsula belligerent territory, even as it did the land itself.

March saw the end of the Peddlars Guild. They had been organized in Russian interests but now they had no longer any raison d'etre. As a final flurry, one of their number entered the house of the Foreign Minister with the intent to murder him, but did not find his victim. Other similar attempts were made but did not succed.

The Japanese handled the situation in Seoul with great circumspection. The notion that they would attack the pro-Russian officials proved false. Everything was kept quiet and the perturbation into which the court and the government were thrown by these startling events was soon soothed.

Marquis Ito was sent from Japan with a friendly message to the Emperor of Korea and this did much to quiet the unsettled state of things in Korea. At about the same time the northern ports of Wiju and Yongampo were opened to foreign trade. This was a natural result of the withdrawal of Russian influence. It was not long before Yi Yong-ik who had played such a leading rôle in Korea was invited to go to Japan and thus an element of unrest was removed from the field of action. It was believed that the Japanese would immediately introduce much needed reforms, but it seemed to be their policy to go very slowly, so slowly in fact that the better element among the Koreans was disappointed, and got the impression that Japan was not particularly interested in the matter of reform. It is probable that the energies of the Japanese were too much engaged in other directians to divert any to Korea at the time. They had been complaining bitterly about the monetary conditions, but when they suddenly stepped into power in Seoul on February 9th they seemed to forget all about this, for up to the end of 1904 they failed to do anything to correct the vagaries of Korean finance. But instead of this the Japanese merchants in Korea and other Japanese who were here for other reasons than their health immediately began to make requests and demands for all sorts of privileges. The Board of Trade in Fusan asked the Japanese government to secure the Maritime Customs service, permission for extra territorial privileges,

the establishment of Japanese agricultural stations and other impossible things.

Meanwhile the Japanese were steadily pushing north. At Anju a slight skirmish occurred but there was nothing that could be called a fight until the Japanese reached the town of Chöng ju where a small body of Russians took a stand on a hill northwest of the town and held it for three hours, but even here the casualties were only about fifteen on either side. The Russians evidently had no notion of making a determined stand this side the Yalu. Already, a week before, the Russian troops had withdrawn from Yongampo and had crossed to Antung. This fight at Chöng-ju occurred on March 28th and a week later practically all the Russian forces had crossed the Yalu and Korea ceased to be belligerent territory. It is not the province of this history to follow the Japanese across that historic river and relate the events which occurred at the beginning of May when the first great land battle of the war was fought.

The whole north had been thrown into the greatest confusion by the presence of these two belligerents. Cossack bands had scurried about the country, making demauds for food and fodder a part of which they were willing to pay for with Russian currency quite unknown to the Korean. From scores of villages and towns the women had fled to the mountain recesses at a most inclement season, and untold suffering had been entailed. But these are things that always come in the track of war and the Koreans bore them as uncomplainingly as they could. Throughout the whole country the absorption of the attention of the government in the events of the war was taken advantage of by robbers, and their raids were frequent and destructive. As soon as the government found that the Japanese did not intend to rule with a high hand it sank back into the former state of selfcomplacent lethargy, and things went along in the old ruts. It was perfectly plain that Korean officialdom had no enthusiasm for the Japanese cause. It is probable that a large majority of the people preferred to see Japan win rather than the Russians, but it was the fond wish of ninety-nine out of every hundred to see Korea rid of them both. Whichever one held exclusive power here was certain to become an object

of hatred to the Korean people. Had the Russians driven out the Japanese the Koreans would have hated them as heartily. Whichever horn of the dilemma Korea became impaled upon she was sure to think the other would have been less sharp. Few Koreans looked at the matter from any large standpoint or tried to get from the situation anything but personal advantage. This is doubtless the reason why it was so difficult to gain an opinion from Korean officials. They did not want to go on record as having any decided sympathies either way. The people of no other land were so nearly neutral as were those of Korea.

The month of April was comparatively quiet. The Japanese were struggling north through frost and mud combined to rendezvous on the banks of the Yalu. On the 14th occurred the great fire in Seoul which in a few hours swept away almost the whole of the Kyöng-un Palace, the one recently completed and the one occupied by the Emperor at the time. He was forced to vacate it in haste and take up his abode for the time being in the detached Imperial Library building. A strong effort was made by the Japanese to induce him to return to the Chöng-důk Palace, which was his place of residence at the time of the emeutes of 1882 and 1884, but this was combatted with all the means available, and the burned palace was rebuilt as quickly as possible.

The temporary effect of the war upon the Korean currency was to enhance its value. Imports suddenly came to a standstill because of the lack of steamships and the possible dangers of navigation. This stopped the demand for yen. The Japanese army had to spend large sums in Korea and this required the purchase of Korean money. The result was that the yen, instead of holding its ratio of something like one to two and a half of the Korean dollar fell to the ratio of one to only one and four tenths. When, however, the sea was cleared of the Russians and import trade was resumed and the bulk of the Japanese crossed the Yalu the Korean dollar fell again to a ratio of about two to one, which it has preserved up to the present time, i.e. December, 1904.

From the time when the Russians retired beyond the Yalu warlike operations between the two belligerents was

confined to northeast Korea though even there very little was doing. The Vladivostock squadron was still in being and on April 25 it appeared at the mouth of Wonsan harbor. Only one small Japanese boat was at anchor there, the Goyo Maru, and this was destroyed by a torpedo boat which came in for the express purpose. Of course this created intense excitement in the town and there was a hurried exodus of women and children, but the Russians had no intention of bombarding the place and soon took their departure. Only a few hours before, the Kinskin, a Japanese transport with upwards of 150 troops on board, had sailed for Sung-jin to the north of Wonsan but meeting bad weather in the night the torpedo-boats that accompanied her were obliged to run for shelter and the Kinshiu turned back for Wonsan. By so doing she soon ran into the arms of the Russian fleet and refusing to surrender she was sunk, but forty-five of the troops on board effected their escape to the mainland.

It was only a few days before this that a force of Cossacks had made a dash down the eastern coast as far as Ham-heung which they entered after a two hours' skirmish with Korean troops. They burned about 300 houses in the suburbs of the town and also fourteen kan of the celebrated "Teu Thousand Year Bridge," the longest in Korea. this they retired to the north. But from that time on the whole northeast has been scoured by parties of Russians and the Japanese have paid no attention to them except to place troops at Wonsan and Ham-heung to hold these places. On August 8th a small Russian force penetrated south to the very suburbs of Wousau but were speedily repulsed by the Japanese who had thrown up intrenchments and were quite ready to meet any assault. The Russians worked with great energy in repairing the road from the Tuman River down to Sung-jin, and even south of that place. They even built good graded roads across two of the high passes south of Sung jin until they came in contact with the Japanese outposts twenty miles above Ham heung. Neither side seemed to desire to assume the offensive and so matters stood until the end of the year, and the coming of the northern winter put a stop to active operations. The only other incident worthy of meution in this connection was the wanton attack

upon the town of Wonsan by the Russian fleet on the last day of June. On that morning seven Russian torpedo-boats entered the harbor and after inquiring where the Japanese barracks and other public buildings were situated began shelling the town. In a panic the peaceful denizens of the place fled to the shelter of the hills. The Russians gave no warning of the attack even though many foreigners of various nationalities resided there and might easily have been injured. After firing over 200 shells without doing any considerable damage the torpedo boats withdrew.

We must now go back and inquire into important civil matters. We have seen that no strong attempt was made by the Japanese to secure reforms in the administration of the Korean Government and for this reason many of the best Koreans were dissatisfied with the way things were going. Therefore it was doubly unfortunate that on the seventeenth of June the Japanese authorities should make the startling suggestion that all uncultivated land in the Peninsula as well as other national resources should be thrown open to the Japanese. This appears to have been a scheme evolved by one Nagamori and broached by him so speciously to the powers in Tokyo that they backed him in it; but there can be no question that it was a grave mistake. There is no other point on which the Korean is so sensitive as upon that of his land. He is a son of the soil, and agriculture is the basis of all his institutions. The mere proposal raised an instant storm of protest from one end of Korea to the other. The Koreans saw in this move the entering wedge which would rive the country. It was the beginning of the end. This excessive show of feeling was not expected by the Japanese and it is probable that their intentions were by no means so black as the Koreans pictured them. The very general terms in which the proposal was worded and the almost entire lack of limiting particulars gave occasion for all sorts of wild conjectures and, it must be confessed, left the door open to very wide constructions. The time was unpropitions, the method was unfortunate and the subject-matter of the proposal itself was questionable. The all-important matter of water supply and control, the difficulties of jurisdiction on account of the extraterritorial rights implied in the

proposal and other allied questions immediately presented themselves to the minds of Koreans and they recognized the fact that the carrying out of this plan would necessarily result in a Japanese protectorate if not absolute absorption into the Empire of Japan. The Japanese do not seem to have followed the logic of the matter to this point or else had not believed the Koreans capable of doing so. But when the storm of protest broke it carried everything before it. The Japanese were not prepared to carry the thing to extremes and after repeated attempts at a compromise the matter was dropped, though the Japanese neither withdrew their request nor accepted the refusal of the Korean Government. It is a matter of great regret that the Japanese did not quietly and steadily press the question of internal reforms, and by so doing hasten the time when the Korean people as a whole would repose such confidence in the good intentions of the neighbor country that even such plans as this of the waste lands could be carried through without serious opposition; for it is quite sure that there is a large area of fallow land in Korea which might well be put under the plow.

During the weeks when the Japanese were pressing for a favorable answer to the waste land proposition the Koreans adopted a characteristic method of opposition. A society called the Po-an-whe was formed. The name means "Society for the Promotion of Peace and Safety." It had among its membership some of the leading Korean officials. It held meetings at the cotton guild in the center of Seoul and a good deal of excited discussion took place as to ways and means for defeating the purpose of the Japanese. At the same time memorials by the score poured in upon the Emperor, beseeching him not to give way to the demands. The Japanese determined that these forms of opposition must be put down, so on July the 16th the meeting of the society was broken in upon by the Japanese police and some of the leading members were forcibly carried away to the Japanese police station. Other raids were made upon the society and more of its members were arrested and its papers confiscated. The Japanese warned the government that these attempts to stir up a riot must be put down with a stern hand and demanded that those who persisted in sending in memorials

against the Japanese be arrested and punished. If the Korean government would not do it the Japanese threatened to take the law into their own hands. The Japanese troops in Seoul were augmented until the number was fully 6,000.

The agitation was not confined to Seoul, for leading Koreans sent out circular letters to all the country districts urging the people to come up to Seoul and make a monster demonstration which should convince the Japanese that they were in dead earnest. Many of these letters were suppressed by the prefects but in spite of this the news spread far and wide and the society enrolled thousands of members in every province.

The effect of this was seen when, early in August, the Japanese military authorities asked for the services of 6,000 Korean coolies in the north at handsome wages. The number was apportioned among different provinces, but the results were meager. Disaffected persons spread the report that these coolies would be put on the fighting line, and it was with the greatest difficulty that two thousand were secured. There were sanguinary fights in many towns where attempts were made to force coolies to go against their will. It was prefectly right for the Japanese to wish to secure such labor, but the tide of public sentiment was flowing strong in the other direction because of the attempt to secure the waste land and because of the suspension of the right of free speech.

The cessation of Japanese efforts to push the waste land measure did not put an end to agitation throughout the country, and the Il-chin society continued to carry on its propaganda until on August 22nd a new society took the field, named the Il-chin Society. This was protected by the Japanese police who allowed only properly accredited members to enter its doors. This looked as if it were intended as a counter-move to the Il-chin Society, and as the latter was having very little success a third society took up the gauntlet under the name of the Kuk-min or "National People's" Society. The platforms promulgated by all these societies were quite faultless but the institutions had no power whatever to carry out their laudable plans and so received only the smiles of the public.

During the summer the Japanese suggested that it would be well for Korea to recall her foreign representatives. The idea was to have Korean diplomatic business abroad transacted through Japanese legations. Whether this was a serious attempt or only a feeler put out to get the sense of the Korean government we are unable to say, but up to the end of the year the matter was not pushed, and the nomination by the Japanese of Mr. Stevens, an American subject, as adviser to the Foreign Office would seem to indicate that the existing diplomatic arrangements will be continued for the time being.

The various societies which had been formed as protests against existing conditions stated some things that ought to be accomplished-but suggested no means by which they could be done. The difficulty which besets the country is the lack of general education, and no genuine improvement can be looked for until the people be educated up to it. For this reason a number of foreigners joined themselves into the Educational Association of Korea, their aim being to provide suitable text books for Korean schools and to help in other ways toward the solution of this great question. About the same time the Minister of Education presented the government with a recommendation that the graduates of the Government schools be given the preference in the distribution of public offices. This had no apparent effect upon the Government at the time, but this is what must come before students will flock to the Government schools with any enthusiasm. Later in the year a large number of Koreans also founded an Educational Society. It made no pretensions to political significance but went quietly to work gathering together those who are convinced that the education of the masses is the one thing peeded to put Korea upon her feet, in the best sense.

In September there was celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the founding of Protestant Christian missions in Korea. A great convention had been arranged for and leading men were to attend it but the war interfered with the plan and the convention was postponed till 1909, when the quarter-centennial will be celebrated. In spite of this a memorable meeting was held and the results of Christian

work in Korea were set forth and discussed. We need say no more here than that this field is rightly considered as being one of the most successful in the world and as giving promise of great things in the future.

In the middle of October the Japanese military authorities sent Marshal Hasegawa to take charge of military affairs in Korea. He arrived on the thirteenth and shortly after went to Wonsan to inspect matters in that vicinity. The news of considerable Russian activity in northeast Korea seemed to need careful watching and the presence of a general competent to do whatever was necessary to keep them in check.

The laying of the last rail of the Seoul Fusan Railway was an event of great importance to Korea. It adds materially to the wealth of the country both by forming a means of rapid communication and by enhancing the value of all the territory through which it runs. It also gives Japan such a large vested interest here that it becomes, in a sense, her guarantee to prevent the country from falling into the hands of other Powers. But like all good things it has its dangers as well.

Mr Megata, the new adviser to the Fniance Department arrived in the Autumn and began a close study of Korean monetary and financial conditions. This was an augury of good, for Korean finance has always been in a more or less chaotic condition since the time when the late Regent flooded the country with discarded Chinese cash and a spurions Korean coinage whose lack of intrinsic value gave the lie to its face.

Later in the year Mr. Stevens, the newly appointed adviser of the Foreign Department, took up his duties which, though less important than those of Mr. Megata, nevertheless gave assurance that the foreign relations of the government would be carefully handled.

As the year came to a close there were evidences that the Japauese were about to begin what should have been begun before, namely a gradual reform in the administration of the government. Useless offices are to be abolished, the army is to be brought down to its proper proportions, retrenchment is to be effected in various other lines and education is to be encouraged. On the whole the year closed with brighter prospects in Korea than any former portion of the year had shown.

The termination of an historical survey covering four thousand years of time naturally suggests some general remarks upon that history as a whole. And in the first place it is worth noting that the Korean people became a homogeneous nation at a very early date. Before the opening of the tenth century they were so firmly welded together that no sectional difference has ever seriously threatened their disruption.

Since the year 700 A. D. there have been two bloodless changes of dynasty but there has not been a single successful revolution, in the ordinary sense of the word. There have been three great and several small invasions but none of these left any serious marks upon the country either in the line of inter-mixture of blood or of linguistic modification. They served simply to weld the people more closely together and make the commonwealth more homogeneous than ever.

In the second place the power has always been in the hands of the men of greatest average wit, and it has uniform. ly been used to further personal aims. The idea of any altruistic service has been conspicuously lacking, though there have been brilliant exceptions. The concept of individuality or personality is strangely lacking in all Turanian peoples and this it is which has kept them so far in the rear of the Indo-European peoples in the matter of civilization. The essential feature of true progress, namely the recognition of the present time as on the whole the best time, the present institutions as being the best institution, the present opportunities as being the best opportunities, the present people as being the best people that history has to show—this feature is sadly lacking in the Far East. Japan has grafted this into her life and it already bears fruit, but Korea stands with China as yet.

Individual people cannot be sure of getting their just deserts in this life whether they be good or evil, but this is hardly true of nations. They generally get about what they have deserved. If men lived as long as empires they too might be served the same. It is poor philosophy to mourn

the fate of a decadent empire or of a moribund civilization. They have served their purpose and are ready to pass away. Upon their ruins there are sure to arise edifices that are worthier of habitation than were those of the past. In Korea the old is passing away, is crumbling about our ears. The new wine is bursting the old bottles. The question for the future to answer is whether the Korean people will allow their ship of state to drift upon the Sargasso Sea until the seaweed "rising strake on strake" shall make her utterly direlict, or whether they will awake from their lethargy, clear away the barnacles and jam the helm down hard a-port until the wind fills the sails and she can forge ahead toward some desired haven.

It is not the province of the historian to play the prophet nor shall we try to forecast what the future may bring forth, but it is permissible to express the hope that Korea will make herself increasingly worthy of a continued and distinguished history.

THE END.

## Index for 1904.

A point of ethics	ī	Korean relations with Japan	Ç
	249	Koreans in Manchuria	443
Alliance, The Korea-Japanese	74	Ladies' days	461
Battle of Chemulpo	53	Late Queen Dowager, The	$\epsilon$
,, of Kang-gye	214	Lie on the left side	20
Book on Korea, A new	109	Map making	211
Book on Japan, New	505	Meum et teum	298
Bridge, The 10,000 year	305	Neutrality, Korean	70
Burning of the Palace, The	155	New book on Korea	100
Cemetery, The foreign	453	News calendar 24, 77, 120, 172,	, 216
Chemulpo, The Battle of	53	261, 312, 362, 408, 462, 508,	
Code Penal de la Coree	357	Northeast Korea	393
Condition of Korea 163,	199	Note on Ha-ju	207
Corea, the Hermit Nation	502	Odds and Ends 20, 259,	
Corea and Coreani	504	Oldest relic in Korea	255
Cremanzy, Laurent	357	Palace burned, The	155
Decadent Korea	75	Penal code in Korea	357
Dowager, The late Queen	6	Point of ethics, A	I
Editorials 23, 70, 168, 260, 306,	360	Queen Dowager, The	6
402, 456, 508,	549	Railroad construction	204
Educational needs of Korea		Reform spelling 385,	440
443, 481,	533	Relations with Japan, Korean	Ç
Fifteen years among the top-		Relic in Korea, The oldest	255
knots	215	Retrospect of 1903	13
Folk-tales 1, 20, 21, 2, 259, 298,	499	Retrospect of 1904	529
Foreign cemetery, The	453	Reviews 109, 215, 170, 357, 504.	505
Fortune-teller's dilemma, A	21	Rossetti, Carlo	504
Fusion of Korean Society	337	Russians burn bridge	214
Gale, D. D., Rev. J S.	170	,, dash at An ju	213
Ghost of a Ghost, The	499	Russo-Japanese war 49, 97, 145,	193
Ha-ju, Note on	207	241,	
Hamilton, Angus	109	Russians in Northeast Korea	438
History of Korea 33, 81, 129,	177	Severance Hospital, The	494
225, 273, 321, 369, 417, 465,	513	Sorcery exposed	22
561		Spelling reform 385, 440,	
Hospital, The Severance	494	Straight official, A	259
Imperial residence, The	202	Stripling, A. B.	118
Industrial projects in Korea,		Ten thousand year bridge	305
Japanese	289	Underwood, Mrs. H G. (review	
Korea decadent	75	TT 1 001	215
Korea, Northeast	393	Vanguard, The	170
Korea owes Japan, What	350	War anecdotes	211
Korean history (see History)		Waste lands, The 306,	
Korean neutrality	70	What Korea owes Japan	350
Korean society, Fusion of	337	Wonsan incident, The	204





